

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
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O 231633Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6724
INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LAGOS 2324

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO NIGERIA

REF: (A) STATE 42622, (B) LAGOS 2030

1. DCM MET WITH CHIEF OF PROTOCOL BALEWA LAST NIGHT TO
EXPRESS APPRECIATION OF FMG'S ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSED DATES
AND TO DISCUSS VARIOUS ASPECTS OF VISIT. ACCORDING TO
BALEWA, MEA COMMITTEE HEADED BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR SANU AND COMPRISING BALEWA, AMERICAS
DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR MUSA AND AFRICA DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR
AKADIRI WILL BE MEETING WITH EMBOFFS TO HAMMER OUT DETAILS.
HIS PRELIMINARY REACTIONS TO SCHEDULE PROPOSED IN REFTEL A
WERE AS FOLLOWS:

2. WECOMING CEREMONY. FMG BVVIEVES DODAN BARRACKS IS
BETTER VENUE FROM SECURITY STANDPOINT FOR WELCOMING CEREMONY
THAN TAFAWA BALEWA SQUARE. IT IS ALSO MORE CONVENIENT, AS
TWO CHIEFS OF STATE NEED ONLY WALK A FEW PACES FFOM PLACE
WHERE CERNONY WILL BE HELD TO CNFERENCE ROOM FOR BILATERAL
TALKS. ADEQUATE SPACE FOR PRESS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT

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DODAN BARRACKS. FMG HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER IT PREFERENCES
RECEPTION OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS EVENT
OR SCHEDULED SEPARATELY THAT AFTERNOON.

3. WREATH LAYING. AT SOME POINT DURING VISIT FMG WOULD LIKE
PRESIDENT CARTER TO LAY A WREATH ON RECENTLY COMPLETED
"CENOTAPH COMMEMORATINF WAR DEAD WHICH IS LOCATED NEXT TO

TAFAWA BALEWA STADIUM. BALEWA SUGGESTED BRIEF STOP MORNING OF APRIL 2 ENROUTE TO AIRPORT.

4. SPEECH. WE AGREE WITH BALEWA THAT IT WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE TO SCHEDULE SPEECH OUT OF DOORS AT 2:00 P.M. DURING PEAK OF HOT SEASON. AUDITORIUM AT NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CAN ONLY ACCOMMODATE 300 PERSONS AND USUALLY HAS NO AIR CONDITIONING. BEST SITE IN LAGOS IN OUR VIEW AND BALEWA'S WOULD BE THE NATIONAL ARTS THEATER, AUDITORIUM AND CONFERENCE HALL, WHICH ACCOMMODATE 5,000 AND 2,000 PERSONS RESPECTIVELY. BALEWA SAID, HOWEVER, THAT FMG WOULD PREFER THAT PRESIDENT GIVE HIS SPEECH BEFORE STUDENT AUDIENCE AT BAYERO UNIVERSITY (SEE REFTEL B) IN KANO. HE POINTED OUT THAT VISITING HEADS OF STATE CUSTOMARILY SPEAK AT LAGOS OR IBADAN UNIVERSITIES AND THAT FMG WOULD LIKE TO HONOR ANOTHER UNIVERSITY.

5. KANO. BALEWA SAID THAT HEAD OF STATE ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE NOT ONLY TO KANO VISIT BUT ALSO TO BALANCING DURING THE VISIT THE POLITICAL INTERESTS OF TRADITIONAL RULERS (EMIRS) AND OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT. BALEWA THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT SCHEDULE INCLUDE A CALL ON EMIR OF KANO AND A PROVINCIAL DURBAR (LASTING ABOUT AN HOUR), ON THE ONE HAND, AND A LUNCH WITH THE GOVERNOR AND A VISIT (WITH SPEECH) TO BAYERO UNIVERSITY ON THE OTHER HAND.

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HE AGREED THAT THERE MIGHT NOT BE TIME TO INCLUDE KADUNA AGRICULTURAL PROJECT (REFTEL B).

6. PRESS CONFERENCE. ALTHOUGH SCHEDULE IN REFTEL DOES NOT INCLUDE A PRESS CONFERENCE, WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL DIMENSION TO THE FAVORABLE IMPACT OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT. IT COULD BE SCHEDULED UPON PRESIDENT'S RETURN FROM KANO OR EARLY SUNDAY MORNING BEFORE DEPARTURE.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISIT. WE WILL HAVE TROUBLE GETTING FULL AND OPEN COLLABORATION FROM NIGERIAN OFFICIALS IN VARIOUS MINISTRIES (COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORTATION, INFORMATION) BEFORE VISIT IS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED. USIS HAS ALREADY MET STONE WALL BECAUSE ITS CONTACTS DO NOT KNOW VISIT SCHEDULED AND THEREFORE CANNOT DISCUSS IT. ACCORDING TO BALEWA, USUAL HOURS FOR FMG PRESS RELEASES ARE 7 A.M. AND 1 P.M. NIGERIAN TIME (1 A.M. AND 7 A.M. EASTERN STANDARD TIME). THEY WOULD PREFER TO RELEASE ANNOUNCEMENT ONE HOUR BEFORE WASHINGTON DOES, WHICH THEY CONSIDER APPROPRIATE INASMUCH AS FMG IS INVITING AND USG IS ACCEPTING. AS WAS THE CASE LAST FALL, FMG WOULD LIKE THE ANNOUNCEMENTS TO HAVE DIFFERENT TEXTS.

8. A KEY QUESTION NOW IS WHETHER PRESIDENT'S SPEECH SHOULD BE GIVEN IN KANO OR LAGOS. WE ARE INVESTIGATING THIS QUESTION FURTHER AND WILL SUBMIT SEPTEL. THAT MESSAGE WILL ALSO ADDRESS QUESTION CONTAINED IN PARA 7 OF REFTEL A REGARDING DESIRABILITY OF DEDICATING NEW CHANCERY OR VISIT TO A ROAD CONSTRUCTION SITE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 1.

9. ACTION REQUESTED:

(A) CLARIFICATION OF STATEMENT IN PARA 6D OF REFTEL THAT TOTAL ROOM REQUIREMENT FOR NIGHT OF 28TH WILL BE 450. IT APPEARS TO US THAT THE TOTAL OF 450 WILL NOT BE REACHED UNTIL THE NIGHT OF PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL, MARCH 31.

(B) AN INDICATION OF YOUR VIEWS REGARDING THE DESIRABILITY AND TIMING OF A PRESS CONFERENCE.

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(C) ADVICE WHETHER FMG PROPOSAL TO ANNOUNCE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT ONE HOUR IN ADVANCE OF WASHINGTON ANNOUNCEMENT IS ACCEPTABLE. IN ANY EVENT, WE URGE THAT ANNOUNCEMENT BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SINCE PRESENT CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT SERIOUSLY RETARDS OUR WORK.

(D) ADVICE ON ARRANGEMENTS WHICH PRE-ADVANCE AND ADVANCE TEAMS WILL WANT IN KANO (DATES, LENGTH OF STAY, NUMBERS COMING).

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